

Members' Briefing



**Barking &
Dagenham**



Great news for Dagenham Heathway

The borough has secured £10.8m funding for two new projects that will reinvigorate Dagenham Heathway, thanks to a bid written by Be First on the council's behalf, as part of the latest awards announced through the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

The funding will be allocated to the remediation and demolition of Millard

Terrace, making the wider redevelopment of the area more financially viable. It will also facilitate a development which will generate 316 new homes, new commercial units and public realm and streetscape improvements, and safeguard 241 jobs.

To bring forward redevelopment of Millard Terrace a ballot of residents will be required. Since the bid was submitted a 'Test of Opinion' was taken and 75% of tenants were in favour of redevelopment.

[You can find out more about other successful Levelling Up bids here.](#)



Residents urged to go greener with the Green Garden Waste collection service

Residents are being urged to add some green plans to their New Year resolutions and do their bit for the planet while making their lives easier, by

[signing up](#) to the council's Green Garden Waste collection service.

The service, which costs £43 for the year, collects and recycles flowers, weeds, leaves, grass cuttings, twigs and hedge trimmings.

Launched in 2017, the service saw over 7,500 residents sign up last year.

Residents can now take advantage of 19 fortnightly collections between March and December if they sign up before Valentine's Day, Tuesday 14 February.

The Green Garden Waste service has proved a significant part of the council's efforts to meet the Mayor of London's target of having a 50 per cent recycling rate by 2030.

Residents can sign up for the Green Garden Waste service at lbbd.gov.uk/green-garden-waste-collections



LIVE 

with the Leader
Budget Consultation Special

**Join us Thursday 26th
of January, from 6pm**

Email your questions in:
socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk

#BDLeaderLive **Barking &
Dagenham**

The graphic features two portraits of men: one in a white shirt and tie, and another in a dark suit. The background is red with white RSS icons.

Residents are invited to have their say on the 2023/24 council budget proposals

Residents are being encouraged to give their views on [Barking and Dagenham Council's 2023/24 budget proposals](#).

The plans have been announced against a backdrop of severe and sustained cuts to local government, which have seen the council's funding slashed from £103m in 2010 to £80m in 2022. Taking into account inflation of over 40% during this time, funding given to the council is the equivalent of just £57m compared to £103m in 2010.

We are supporting residents through the biggest cost of living crisis in almost half a century and the impact of spiralling inflation has driven up the costs of everyday essentials and is causing a big squeeze on an already stretched budget.

In response to the latest crisis, the council launched a network of community hubs to offer help and advice in neighbourhoods across the borough. We have also partnered with community organisations to create a [Cost of Living Alliance to support people](#) as early as possible, including providing help with energy costs, money worries, food and wellbeing.

A number of warm hubs have also been established to support residents who are struggling with their energy bills by providing a warm space for them to go to during the day.

Over the last few years, the council has faced major challenges across all of our services, particularly housing and social care. For every £10 we spend, £7 goes on caring for the most vulnerable people in our community before we can fund anything else and demand on our services continues to rise. The budget proposals acknowledge that despite making £50million in savings and efficiencies over the last five years, more help is needed from the government if we are to continue to balance the books.

To continue to provide key services for our most vulnerable residents, we are proposing a 5 per cent increase in Council Tax, including 2 per cent ringfenced for social care, which will add around £1.33 per week onto the average band D property (excluding the GLA element) from next April. The cost of delivering the council's services have been affected by inflation which has increased by 10.1% over the past year.

Residents can have their say on our 2023/24 budget proposals [here](#). The consultation will close on Sunday 5 February 2023.

Residents can also tune in to a special budget Facebook Live Q&A with Councillor Twomey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Core Services and Councillor Rodwell, Leader of the Council, on Thursday 26 January, between 6 – 7pm on the [Leader's Facebook page](#). They can submit a budget question ahead of the session by emailing socialmedia@lbbd.gov.uk.

In addition to this, residents can also provide feedback in person at the following budget consultation sessions:

- Monday 30 January, 5.30 – 6.30pm at the Barking Learning Centre, 2 Town Square, Barking IG11 7NB
- Tuesday 31 January, 5.30 – 6.30pm at Dagenham Library, 1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham RM10 9QS.

Training updates for councillors

This week we have included details of several LGA courses and events. For details on how to access the courses, please see the Members' Training section below.

Borough News



Just over a week to go to get your nominations in for the Women's Empowerment Awards 2023

Residents are being urged to put forward nominations for next year's Women's Empowerment Awards.

The event takes place in March to mark the end of Women's Empowerment Month and celebrates the diverse achievements of women who live and work in Barking and Dagenham.

This year's event features nine different categories, seven of which are open for public nominations, including Educator of the Year, Female Volunteer, and Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

This will be the eighth time the Awards have been hosted.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 31 January 2023. For more details

and to nominate visit oneboroughvoice.lbbd.gov.uk/womens-empowerment-awards-2023



#HolocaustMemorialDay

Council to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is held on 27 January every year and is a time to remember and reflect on the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. It's also a time to remember the millions of people killed under Nazi persecution, and the genocides that have sadly followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The following events will be taking place to mark this important day, and everyone is welcome:

Holocaust Memorial Day with Susie Barnett BEM – Holocaust Survivor Susie Barnett BEM, will be visiting the borough to tell her incredible story on Wednesday 25 January at the Barking Learning Centre, from 2 to 4pm. Residents will get the chance to hear first-hand about the horrors she and her family faced in Nazi Germany, followed by a Q&A session to better understand the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth. Residents

can book a place at <https://orlo.uk/hnxGt>

Barking Town Hall Commemoration Event – A flag raising and candle lighting event will be held outside Barking Town Hall on Friday 27 January, from 1 to 3pm. There will be an opportunity to hear prayers, participate in a minute's silence, raise the Holocaust Memorial Day flag and view a screening of the 'HMD 2023 Ordinary People' video. There's no need to book for this event.



Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day
14 years of celebrating diversity in the local community

Saturday 28th January 2023

 **Daggers v Yeovil Town FC** 
Vanamara National League
3.00 kick-off

Chigwell Construction Stadium
Victoria Road, Dagenham RM10 7XL

Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day – Make it a date

Later this month Dagenham and Redbridge FC will be holding their annual Daggers Celebrate Diversity Day when they play their league game against Yeovil Town on Saturday 28 January.

The event celebrates and showcases the many good things that are happening in the borough and thanks to sponsorship from [BD Group](#), residents will be able to get children's match tickets from as little as 50p and adult tickets from £4.99, plus under 10s go free.

Residents will be able to get their tickets now by heading to www.daggers.co.uk/tickets.



A RUBBISH way to start the new year – the Wall of Shame is back for 2023

Our grime fighting video series, the Wall of Shame, is back for the new year with a bumper episode filled to the brim with naughty fly-tippers caught on camera.

Featuring 18 different tippers from six locations in the borough, the latest episode is once again asking for help to catch the people who treat the borough's streets like their own personal dump. So, if you know or recognise anyone we feature then please get in touch by emailing our Enforcement team at grimecrime@lbbd.gov.uk now.

And if you want to catch up on the series so far, then head to [our website](#).

Around the council



Giving residents a helping hand through the cost of living crisis

We've been sharing lots of ways residents can get help with money, food, energy, wellbeing and more.

If you know someone who could benefit from this support, please do help us spread the word. There's lots of information available online, or if they prefer, they could speak to staff at one of our Community Hubs or partner buildings. They can also take a look at where these are located [here](#).

While we might not have the answer to everything, residents can reach out and we'll do our best to connect them to the support they might need.

And as temperatures continue to drop, residents are reminded that there are lots of [warm spaces](#) across the borough that they can visit so they don't have to put the heating on at home.

More information on the cost of living support available can be found at www.lbbd.gov.uk/cost-living-support



Residents invited to open a savings account today through Barking and Dagenham Money

The Council has partnered with Leeds Credit Union to bring more affordable loans options and saving accounts to residents through Barking and Dagenham Money (BD Money).

The aim is to help local people become more financially resilient, keep more money in their pockets and access appropriate services to meet their financial needs and ambitions. This is not-for-profit, with all benefits staying in the community.

Since its launch earlier this month we've racked up hundreds of new members. For residents considering opening a savings account through BD Money, it's straight-forward, hassle-free and there's also a wide range of trusted, low-interest loans available.

More information can be found at www.BDMoney.co.uk



Help and support available for residents through the Household Support Scheme

Residents who may be struggling with their finances or to make ends meet are being encouraged to get in touch.

Funding is available to vulnerable residents to support them with essentials over the coming months.

Residents can [apply online](#) or email benefits@lbbd.gov.uk.

There are also [a number of other support services](#) including:

- Our Community Food Clubs which are free of charge and can provide £20 worth of food per week for a period of either three or six months at www.lbbd.gov.uk/community-food-clubs
- Our money and debt webpages provide an income and expenditure calculator and budgeting tools that will help people understand how much money they have coming in and how much is going out, helping them look at areas where they can make savings at www.lbbd.gov.uk/money-and-debt
- Residents who are worried about their finances and need help to tackle debt can now get advice and support from our local Barking and Dagenham Money website at: www.bdmoney.co.uk
- People struggling with increasing energy costs should contact their energy supplier about possible funds they may be entitled to, to help them through difficult periods. They can also access the Warm Homes Grant at www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme
- People with disabilities who aren't claiming specific disability benefits may be able to take advantage of a number of benefits available, including Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance (for children), and Universal Credit. For those caring for someone with disabilities they may be able to claim Carer's Allowance although this is means tested, at www.gov.uk/financial-help-disabled/disability-and-sickness-benefits
- People with a water meter who are experiencing financial difficulties may want to look into the Watersure scheme at www.ofwat.gov.uk/households/customer-assistance. Most water companies also have a fund to help those who are struggling, and it might be worth contacting their water provider.

- People who are out of work and looking to get into employment can get help and support from our Job Shops at www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work
- Anyone worried about a lack of skills can find courses and support on the Adult College website at <https://adultcollege.lbbd.gov.uk/>
- Residents who need help with emergency living expenses for food, fuel (gas and electric for customers who pay via a key meter), travel expenses and household appliances and/or clothing in exceptional circumstances can apply for help from our Hardship Fund (Individual Assistance Payment) at www.lbbd.gov.uk/hardship-and-covid-support-schemes.

Residents can also contact our Homes and Money Hubs which are open for a drop in at Barking Learning Centre and Dagenham Library from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or via email at: homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk.



Jobs and training opportunities available from our Job Shops

Residents who need help and support to get into work can visit our Job Shops.

Jobs and training opportunities are advertised on the website every Monday, and residents can register with the service by completing the [online form](#). They will then be contacted by a member of staff.

Alternatively, residents can contact the shops by telephone: Dagenham Job Shop – 020 8724 8877; Barking Job Shop – 020 8724 8870.

For details of jobs available every week, residents can visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/help-finding-work.

For more information about help and support, residents can visit the Barking and Dagenham Working Together campaign page at www.lbbd.gov.uk/working-together.

Local Government News

Drop in Primary School demand will impact on schools' budgets

London's declining birth rate is impacting on schools' budgets across the capital, a new report published by London Councils has revealed. The majority of school revenue funding is allocated on a per pupil basis and a decrease in pupil numbers means a decrease in the funding a school receives. With many primary schools in London already struggling to balance budgets due to a combination of factors, including inflationary price increases, and a shortage of teaching and support staff, schools will have to make further difficult decisions to balance their budgets.

[London Councils' Executive Member for Children and Young People, Cllr Ian Edwards](#), said: "London boroughs are working closely with schools

experiencing decreasing demand for school places to achieve the best for young Londoners. London still has the best performing schools in the country, and it is vital we ensure our schools thrive in this difficult climate and, most importantly, that children achieve the best outcomes.

“London Councils will work closely with key education partners in London, including government, to mitigate the impact of this drop in demand for school places and to establish an effective framework to meet this challenge going forwards.”

[You can read the full report: *Managing Surplus School Places in London \(2023\)* here.](#)

Net Zero review published

On Friday 13 January, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy [published the findings of the Net Zero Review](#), chaired by former Energy Minister Chris Skidmore MP.

His final report, [Mission Zero](#), makes more than one hundred recommendations – covering areas including the role that business can play and delivering more energy efficient homes – to maximise economic investment, opportunities and jobs, while working towards achieving legally binding targets to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Responding to the report’s findings, [London Councils’ Executive Member for Climate Change, Transport and Environment, Mayor Philip Glanville](#), said:

“(The) Net Zero Review confirms that in order to create a sustainable, effective transition to tackle climate change, local authorities must be at the core (and) it is positive to see our representations reflected in the report.

“The report highlights the number of barriers we face in delivering net zero targets. These include the complexity of government funding programmes and the lack of long-term certainty for funding, which has a knock-on effect on local places’ ability to strategically plan and deliver projects efficiently.

“We welcome the acknowledgement of these challenges, particularly the

recommendation for central government to simplify the net zero funding landscape for all local authorities by the next Spending Review.

“We stand ready to work with government and other partners to achieve a successful, place-based transition to net zero that develops green jobs for the future.”

Fast Track City

Last week marked the five year anniversary since London became a [‘fast track city’](#), by signing up to the Paris Declaration on Fast Track Cities Ending the Aids Epidemic.

The agreement, signed by the Mayor of London, London Councils, Public Health England and NHS England, commits London to end new HIV infections, stop preventable HIV deaths and eliminate the discrimination and stigma associated with HIV by 2030.

The [London HIV Prevention Programme](#) (LHPP) and the public facing information campaign [Do It London](#) has played a key role in London’s ambitions to achieve the fast track cities goal.

This week’s coverage in the national and regional media

Evening Standard, 19 January – [What is the Levelling Up project? The London areas awarded funding](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Politics Home, 19 January – [How does Levelling Up spending compare in the South East to other parts of the country?](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

The Construction Index, 19 January – [Wates ready for third phase of Gascoigne Estate renewal](#).

ITV News, 18 January – [Dagenham mum died after waiting nearly 2 hours for](#)

[ambulance before body 'left on floor for six hours'](#).

The Guardian, 17 January – [Ethnic segregation in England and Wales on the wane, research finds](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 15 January – [Barking: three arrested after man, 32, stabbed during fight at station](#).

Woman & Home, 13 January – [The Duchess of Gloucester steps up her fashion game in cozy cream coat and roll neck – and we have a feeling Sophie Wessex would approve!](#) Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Evening Standard, 13 January – [London Councils crackdown on illegal vapes](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Housing Digital, 13 January – [Warnings of 'worsening' homelessness in London as report reveals extent of crisis](#). Mentions Cllr Rodwell.

Letsrecycle.com, 13 January – [Urbaser wins £90m collections contract with Havering](#). Mentions Barking and Dagenham.

Media Releases

[Council welcomes Levelling Up funding for Dagenham Heathway but says more needs to be done](#).

[Last chance to nominate an inspirational local woman before it's too late](#).

Members' Training

Local Government Association (LGA) Events

The LGA are offering the following sessions:

Handling online abuse and intimidation - Wednesday 1 February, 6 to 7.30pm

This Government funded practical programme will provide attendees with an awareness of the steps that can be taken to manage trolls and cyber-bullies and includes a gentle introduction to the legal framework around social media posts. There will be guidance on how to be safe online generally, as well as tips on how to create a positive online presence.

Personal safety for councillors – Tuesday 21 February, 2 to 3.30pm

This Government funded webinar has been specially devised for councillors who are keen to improve their awareness of personal safety. Built around the role of the elected member, the session is full of practical advice and guidance. Included within the webinar are references to surgeries, canvassing, home visits and managing unexpected doorstep visitors.

One to One Development Sessions

The LGA are offering councillors the opportunity to have one-to-one development conversations with one of the Leadership Academy Facilitators. This will be available to councillors in leadership positions for the next three months. These sessions are not political and will be provided by tutors from the LGA's Leadership Academy programme who a number of councillors might have met from participation on the programmes. They will be focussed on helping councillors adapt their personal leadership style through three structured coaching calls. For more information, please contact Leanna McPherson at: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk

If you are interested in joining any or all of these courses, please email: leanna.mcpherson@lbbd.gov.uk or lois.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

The LGA also offers help for new Councillors via the New Councillor Hub, which can be found [here](#).

And finally...

The Members' Briefing is intended to keep you up to date with what is going on in the council, in the borough and in the world of local government. Please let us have your suggestions on items for inclusion in future bulletins and any feedback you may have on how it can be improved.

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